

EMS Profile: Montgomery County Hospital District



In front, Terry Carpenter; second row, left to right, Jack Maddox, Amber Ott, Cindy Kennedy and Mike Marchetti; back row left, Matt Rushing; back row right, Sherry Sullivan.

Number of personnel and calls:

Montgomery County Hospital District (MCHD), located on the outskirts of Houston, was created by special legislation in 1977 to provide indigent care for Montgomery County. The District began providing EMS service in 1978. Responding to 40,000 calls annually, MCHD has a total workforce of approximately 251 employees. The Communication Center became an Accredited Center of Excellence in 2007 and also provides service for PHI Air Medical and the Conroe Fire Department. MCHD is also a beta test center for the National Academy of Medical Dispatch and served as the pilot location in the Texas Regional EMD project.

Number of Units and Capabilities:

Daily, as many as 21 MICUs cover 1,100 square miles and population of 425,000. MCHD's internal aircraft-style preventative maintenance program for its 29 ambulances and 21 support vehicles is designed to limit critical failures. Standard equipment on each unit includes CPAP, IV Pumps, the ResQ-Pod, nitrous oxide, EZ-IOs, and hydraulic stretchers. MCHD features 12-lead ECGs in a comprehensive STEMI program which also includes protocols for field administration of Retavase. On Valentine's Day 2008, MCHD rolled out an induced hypothermia protocol for post resuscitation management.

Education:

The MCHD Clinical Practice Department provides continuing education and traditional EMS certification courses. Internal resources allow for a specialized, intensive curriculum to meet the evolving needs of MCHD.

Community Participation:

MCHD coordinates a comprehensive, county-wide first responder program, which includes 16 fire departments and seven police agencies and numerous corporate partners. The county-wide AED program features over 200 AED's. MCHD provides CPR/first aid training to the community, health care professionals, and the private sector, as well as SafeSitter training and child safety seat inspections.

Recognition:

Montgomery County Shattered Lives received the 2007 DSHS Public Information/Injury Prevention Award. MCHD has been a recipient of the Public Provider Award from DSHS, the Excellence in Defibrillation Award from National Center for Early Defibrillation, and was honored as a Showcase System by the National Association of EMS Physicians. MCHD has hosted visitors from across the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia and Hong Kong.

MCHD's wellness team has been very successful: MCHD's Weight Watchers group has lost more than 1,200 pounds; numerous people have stopped smoking; and many are no longer required to take insulin or cholesterol lowering medication. The savings from reduced insurance premiums have enhanced employee benefits and been partially refunded to the staff as part of their Reward Builder program.



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